

Minutes of the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering
Public Hearing #1
JBK Theater, Frederick Community College
7932 Opossumtown Pike,
Frederick, MD 21702
January 14, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Walter Olson opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. He expressed thanks to Frederick Community College for hosting the event and invited the commissioners present to introduce themselves.

Commissioners Present:

Alexander Williams, Jr. – Co-Chair
Walter Olson – Co-Chair
Maury S. Epner, Esq.
Deborah Lundahl
Christopher Howard
Luis T. Gutierrez, Jr.
Matthew Douglas, Esq.
Kathleen Jo Parsons Tabor, Esq.

Co-Chair Olson gave a brief overview of the background of redistricting in the sixth district, the duties of the Commission as outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order, and a timeline of upcoming events.

Co-chair Olson explained that individuals who indicated they wished to speak on the sign-in sheets would be invited up to the microphone in the order that they signed in. Participation was encouraged and attendees that did not indicate they wished to speak upon arrival were informed that they would still be given the opportunity to speak at the end. Attendees who wished to speak were asked to consider giving three minutes to share their thoughts.

Of the 16 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Freedom of speech and the right to choose elected representation need to be honored.
- The issue is indicative of a national problem.
- Keep similar communities with shared values and interests together.
- Residents who believe their votes have been disenfranchised want their “voice back.”
- Suggestion that only those deemed citizens should be counted in the Census.
- Given that the composition of the sixth district will change, all of Maryland should be redistricted in this process.
- Suggestion that the Commission use algorithms to compute the final recommendation.
- Compactness is important.

Co-Chair Alexander Williams thanked the attendees that spoke for their participation.

Co-Chair Olson thanked the audience for attending and shared the date for the next public hearing which is to be held in Montgomery County on January 31st at 7 p.m.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:59 p.m.